



WORKING PAPER

**MEETING OF THE METEOROLOGY PANEL (METP)
WORKING GROUP MOG**

FIRST MEETING

Gatwick, London, United Kingdom, 8 to 11 September 2015

Agenda Item 4: Matters relating to WAFS

4.1: Review of Open Items from WAFSOPSG (activity 2.6)

FUTURE PROVISION OF SIGWX IN DIGITAL FORM

(Presented by the WAFS Provider States)

SUMMARY

This Working Paper appraises the group of the current status with regard to current production of WAFS Significant Weather (SIGWX) forecasts in WMO BUFR Edition 3.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The group will recall that the WAFSOPSG/8 meeting considered the implications of the withdrawal of formal support by WMO of the BUFR Edition 3 format, and that BUFR Edition 4 should become the officially supported operational version.

1.2 The group will also recall WAFSOPSG/8 Conclusion 8/14, relating to understanding the impacts of the withdrawal of support for BUFR Edition 3 on the WAFS SIGWX forecasts.

1.3 This Working Paper appraises the group of the current status with regard to this matter.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 The WMO withdrew formal support of BUFR Edition 3 on 6 November 2012. WAFS SIGWX forecasts are encoded by the WAFCs in BUFR Edition 3.

2.2 It is now more than 2 years since formal support was withdrawn, and the WAFCs are pleased to report that there have been no reports of problems by users of WAFS SIGWX BUFR data. This may be in part due to communications with SADIS workstation providers emphasising that the

WAFCs would not migrate to BUFR Edition 4 for their SIGWX forecasts. It is also likely to be due to backward compatibility between BUFR Edition 4 and BUFR Edition 3.

2.3 It would therefore appear that there is no 'urgent' need for the WAFCs to migrate to new digital formats for their SIGWX forecasts.

2.4 However, the MET/14 Divisional Meeting made the recommendation that XML/GML formatted SIGWX forecasts be implemented within the Aviation System Block Upgrades (ASBU) module B1-AMET (2018-2023 timeframe).

From Appendix B 'Report on Agenda Item 2' MET/14,

Implement significant weather forecasts (SIGWX) in XML/GML format as a replacement to SIGWX in BUFR format

2.5 The group will be pleased to note that the WAFC Washington Provider State, has undertaken preliminary work to develop SIGWX forecasts in XML/GML digital form (WXXM). In that regard it is proposed that WG-MOG for WAFS should work with the MIE on how best to provide the SIGWX in XML/GML digital format.

3. **CONCLUSIONS**

3.1 The foregoing provides the group with information relating to the current status of WAFS SIGWX forecast production using WMO BUFR Edition 3.

3.2 The foregoing also apprises the group of the status regarding eventual transition to XML/GML digital forms of SIGWX forecast.

4. **ACTION BY THE METP-WG/MOG**

4.1 The METP-WG/MOG is invited to note the information contained in this working paper

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